

Practice Shell on U. S. Ship Kills Two Nurses



The



World.

WEATHER—Cloudy to-night; probably rain.



PRICE (ONE CENT in Greater New York and Hudson County, N. J. TWO CENTS elsewhere.)

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 21, 1917.

14 PAGES

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BRITISH, FRENCH AND ITALIANS GAIN; HINDENBURG LINE IS CROSSED BY HAIG

RED CROSS NURSES KILLED AS FAULTY SHELL IS FIRED IN TARGET PRACTICE AT SEA

Fragments of Steel Hurlled Among Group of 400 Workers on Way to France—Third Nurse Severely Wounded—Ship Puts Back.

The explosion of a shell which had just been fired aboard an east-bound American steamship by a naval crew from a naval gun at target practice on the Atlantic Ocean, killed two Red Cross nurses and wounded another yesterday. The steamship returned to-day to an American port flag at half mast and landed the bodies of the dead nurses and turned the wounded nurse over to a shore hospital.

Mrs. Edith Ayers, thirty-seven years old, of No. 2112 Sedgwick Street, Chicago, a graduate of Cook County Hospital, and Miss Helen Burnett Woods, of No. 1144 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Ill., a graduate of the Illinois Training School for Nurses, were instantly killed by the explosion. The injured nurse is Miss Emma Matzen of Chicago.

They were members of Red Cross Saco Hospital Group No. 12, recruited at Northwestern University, Chicago, and consisting of sixty-five nurses, twenty-five doctors and 153 ambulance drivers and stretcher bearers, bound for field service in France. Major Frederick Besley, professor of surgery, Northwestern University, was director in charge of the division, and he made the following statement on the arrival of the vessel to-day:

"Target practice aboard the steamship was begun about 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. All the nurses were on the upper deck, about midway of the ship. The Chief Officer and I were standing over the rail watching the shots from the gun deck below."

WAS STANDING BETWEEN THE TWO WOMEN KILLED.

"Two shots had been fired from a forward gun. Then word came that a gun was to be fired on our side of the ship—a gun mounted aft. I was standing between Mrs. Ayers and Miss Woods and Miss Matzen was to the left of Mrs. Ayers."

"Simultaneously with the discharge of the gun the three nurses fell."

"Miss Woods collapsed into a deck chair. No one else in the vicinity was touched. Fragments of the shell picked out these three women."

"All I can say is that we were at right angles to the course of the shell. There is no accurate evidence to warrant making a positive statement as to the exact cause of the accident. That will be determined in an inquiry to be made by a Naval Board. I am informed, and that inquiry will be held as soon as possible in order to avoid delaying the ship."

Major Besley added that an informal inquiry had been held aboard the vessel lasting until 1 o'clock this morning and that all statements made were taken down in affidavit form. When asked as to the nature of the wounds which killed the nurses he said:

GUN NOT INJURED, DECLARES MAJOR BESLEY.

"We found pieces of a copper detonating cap in their wounds and on the deck. The Navy Department will doubtless be able to determine what caused the explosion. The gun was not injured and the members of the gun crew did not know what had happened until we conveyed word to the officer in charge that one of the shells had killed two women and injured a third."

"I have just received a telegram (Continued on Eighth Page.)"

IRELAND IS ASKED TO FORMULATE HER OWN CONSTITUTION

Lloyd George Calls for Immediate Convention to Deal With New Proposal.

LONDON, May 21.—It was announced by Premier Lloyd George in the House of Commons to-day that the Government proposed to summon immediately a convention of representative Irishmen in Ireland to submit to the British Parliament a constitution for the future government of Ireland.

He stated to-day that the chairman of the convention will be nominated by the Crown. There was a rumor that it might be the Duke of Connaught.

"If a substantial agreement is reached regarding the character and scope of the constitution framed by the convention," said the Premier, "the Government will take the necessary steps to enable the Imperial Parliament to give legislative effect thereto. The convention will be held behind closed doors."

The convention, said the Premier, would be representative of the local governing bodies, the churches, the trade unions and commercial and educational interests and would include Sinn Feiners; the delegates to be chosen by the respective bodies.

John Redmond, the Nationalist leader, speaking after the Premier had made his announcement, said that for the first time in her history Ireland has been asked virtually to settle a problem for herself.

"I take it for granted," he added, "that all sections of Irishmen will feel it their duty to come in."

Four unsuccessful attempts, said Mr. Redmond, had been made by three successive Governments to reach a settlement, but the present proposal was entirely novel. Ireland was asked herself to draft a constitution for her country. That proposal carried with it the implied obligation that Great Britain would be only too glad to accept the decisions arrived at.

"I have the sure hope," Mr. Redmond continued, "that the result of the convention will be a blessed one for Ireland and the Empire. With all my heart I hope the convention will be animated by the true spirit of conciliation among Irishmen."

Mr. Redmond said they must not shrink from a compromise, and if they could obtain a substantial agreement it would be worth all the heartburnings and postponements of the last thirty or forty years.

Mr. John Connelley, secretary and whip of the Irish Unionist party, said in addressing the House that the Ulster party would submit the entire proposal to the people of Ulster and recommend its careful consideration. He and his colleagues, he declared, would not take the responsibility for closing the doors upon the experiment.

Earl Curzon made a statement in the House of Lords similar to the Premier's in the House of Commons. He said the subject was one which called for restraint, moderation and forbearance.

"It would be well," he added, "if on the present occasion no attempt were made to revive memories which are charged with painful and sometimes remorseful associations."

RAPS ANTI-DRAFT PLOTTERS.

Judge in Texas Declares Them Little Short of Treason.

DALLAS, Tex., May 21.—Conspiracy to oppose the enforcement of selective service is but little short of treason, Federal District Judge Jack, of the Northern Texas District, charged the grand jury when he impelled it here to-day.

Seven indictments charging conspiracy to oppose the United States Government in carrying out the provisions of the selective service measure, were returned by a grand jury in San Angelo last week, and a further sweeping investigation was ordered to-day.

SECOND DIVISION FOR FRANCE, TAKING IN NEW YORK MILITIA, BEING SPEEDED INTO SHAPE

National Guardsmen Who Had Hard Training at the Border Are to Follow.

By Samuel M. Williams.

(Special Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The first division of regular troops already ordered to France will be reinforced by a second division of regulars, to follow as soon as it can be rushed into shape. Report has been made to the War Department that there are between fifty and seventy-five thousand National Guardsmen in the service who had hard training experience last year on the Mexican border, who can be made nearly as fit as the regulars after six weeks in southern training camps. This includes between 15,000 and 20,000 New Yorkers.

It is estimated that by Oct. 1 the United States can have 100,000 well trained soldiers on the French front without seriously draining its defensive strength. Whether any but the two divisions of regulars will be despatched this year is a question not yet fully decided.

While the United States may be weak just at present in trained fighting men, compared to the vast armies of England and France, this country is quickly marshalling divisions of industrial soldiers whose work behind the lines will be of incalculable value to the Allies, reinforcing them where they are weakest.

In addition to the regiments of engineers now being formed, a second army of experienced railway workers was called for to-day to rebuild and operate the transportation lines of France. Fairfax Harrison, President of the Southern Railway and Chairman of the Railroad War Board, made this announcement to-day.

Ten thousand American railroad men will be organized into nine regiments, under command of an officer of the regular army engineer corps, with experienced railway officials in subordinate command. The men will be enlisted as soldiers, but their duty will be industrial.

Five regiments will be construction organizations to rebuild the French railways. Three regiments will be engineers and trainmen to operate the lines. One regiment will be composed of shop men.

Plans are made to prevent this draft of 10,000 men from interfering with the operation of the already heavily burdened American lines. Train schedules are to be reduced, cutting out unnecessary service, and extra men are taken on to fill the vacated places.

PARIS PAYS A DOLLAR A POUND FOR BEEF

The Inauguration of Two Meatless Days a Week Causes a Rush to Buy.

PARIS, May 21.—With the inauguration of the regime of two meatless days a week beef went to one dollar a pound to-day, and vegetables and fish followed the upward tendency.

The rush for meat supplies to carry over until Wednesday swamped the butchers, although they had laid in extra amounts. There was a good deal of crowding, and some sharp talk was heard against rich buyers who paid any price the dealers asked, sending the quotations too high for modest purses.

Beef on the hoof at the stockyards was higher than last week, although the receipts were larger. Wholesale prices appear to take the view that the new regulations will not reduce consumption.

MR. CHUATE'S WILL DIVIDES ESTATE WORTH \$3,000,000

Son and Daughter Are Residuary Legatees—Several Bequests for Charity.

The will of Joseph H. Choate, filed in the Surrogate's Court this afternoon, disposes of an estate estimated at \$3,000,000. To his widow Mr. Choate left \$250,000 outright, \$75,000 a year and the use for life of his home in Manhattan and his country residence in Stockbridge, Mass.

To George C. S. Choate is left the income of a trust fund of \$250,000 for life. Joseph H. Choate Jr., a son, received \$100,000 outright, and his wife, Cora Oliver Choate, also receives \$100,000.

The four children of Joseph H. Choate Jr. are beneficiaries to the extent of \$50,000 each, to be given to them at the age of twenty-one. Mr. Choate's three nieces, Margaret M. Mary K. and Caroline Choate receive \$10,000 each.

Mr. Choate left \$10,000 to each of the following: State Charities Aid Association, New York Association for the Blind, St. Paul's Church, Stockbridge; Stockbridge Library Association; The Legal Aid Society and the Woman's Prison Association and Home of the City of New York.

The residue of the estate is divided equally between his son Joseph H. Jr. and daughter, Mabel Choate.

MORE HONORS GIVEN TO U. S. AIR FIGHTERS

War Cross and Palm Go to Johnson and Haviland of the Lafayette Escadrille.

PARIS, May 21.—More honors for American aviators in the Lafayette Escadrille were announced this afternoon in the Orders of the Day.

Sergeant C. C. Johnson of St. Louis and Sergeant William Haviland of Minneapolis were both awarded the War Cross with a palm in recognition of the number of enemy machines they have brought down.

Adj. Lt. Harold G. Berry of New York, the only "ace" in the American flying squadron, was granted an additional palm to his war cross.

Charles H. Dolan of Boston, admitted to the Lafayette Squadron only last week, was granted twenty-one days' leave in which to visit his home in Boston, where his mother is ill.

Haviland is twenty-six years old and has been a member of the Escadrille for nearly a year. Johnson is twenty-seven and is a son of Col. D. O. Johnson, U. S. A., retired.

Dolan is twenty-two years of age and has been in training for several months at Pau.

CLASH ON MEXICAN BORDER.

United States Troops in Encounter, Says State Department.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—A clash between American border troops and Mexicans was reported officially to the State Department to-day.

A group of filibusters crossed to the American side near Nogales. They were captured by American army men and Customs officers. Included in those captured were George Holmes, said to be designated as an American, and Manuel Gonzalez, formerly secretary to Hipolito Villa.

TAX ON AUTOS TO STAND.

House Rejects Proposal to Strike It Out by Vote of 85 to 15.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—A proposal by Representative Kelley of Michigan to strike out of the war tax bill the 1 per cent. tax on automobiles at the factory was rejected in the House to-day by a vote of 85 to 15.

Debate then began on the Doberman amendment to levy the tax only on manufacturers earning more than 8 per cent. on their capital stock.

BIG LOSSES IN CHAMPAGNE AND ARRAS BATTLE LINES IS ADMITTED BY GERMANS

Gen. Haig Follows Up His Offensive, Begun Yesterday, While Nivelle Strikes Heavily at Crown Prince; Shelters Filled With Dead

MORE HEIGHTS TAKEN IN ITALIAN ONRUSH

LONDON, May 21.—British, French and Italian Armies, under Haig, Nivelle and Cadorna, continued to-day their smashing blows on the Arras, Laon, Champagne and Austrian fronts. Important gains are reported in every battle, and their claims are to a great extent confirmed by official reports from the Berlin War Office.

Haig continued the offensive begun yesterday with a gain on a mile front on the road to Cambrai. He reported to-day the capture of a German support trench behind the Hindenburg line. About 150 prisoners were taken.

Paris announces that Nivelle's new offensive began to-day and met with tremendous success. Capture of several lines of German trenches in the Moronvilliers sector, on the northern slopes of Carnillet, with 800 prisoners, is reported.

The Rome War Office says Italian troops yesterday took a hill between Palliova and Britovo in their offensive on the Julian front and also extended their positions on the Vodic.

CONGRESS IS URGED TO FORCE CONTROL OVER COAL SUPPLY

Federal Commission Tells of Doctored Books Among Operators to Force Prices.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Declaring that coal mine operators are charging exorbitant prices—often several times the cost of their production—the Federal Trade Commission to-day urged Congress to establish control by governmental agencies which may fix prices.

The Commission declared that coal operators have "doctored" their books, vast discrepancies being found in the actual prices at the mine and the recorded prices.

Regulation of coal distribution from the mouth of the mine to the ultimate consumer—with authority to allot quantities of coal to various classes of consumers—was also urged.

There is and has been an "apple" productive capacity of coal in the country, the Commission declared. Other than extortionate price fixing, the commission blames failure of railroads to furnish sufficient car space and diversion of coastwise and lake shipping to ocean traffic, as prime factors in the present unprecedented flight of coal prices.

In addition to urging drastic Government regulations the commission suggested remedial action to improve transportation facilities, preserve the labor supply and increase storage capacity.

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